Trap ad Crucem;

OR, THE

Papists Watch-word.

Being an Impartial Account of some late *Informations* taken before several of his MAJESTIES Justices of the Peace in and about the City of *London.*

Also a Relation of

The several Fires

That of late have hapened in and about the said CITY.

Published for Publick good, and particularly for Caution to the said City.

London, Printed in the Year, 1670.

An Impartial Account of ſome Informations taken before ſeveral Juſtices of the Peace, concerning the ſeveral Fires happening of late in and near the City of London.

ABout the latter end of *June* and in *July*, one *Joſeph Harriſon* came ſeveral times to the *Greyhound-Inn* in *Holborn*, pretending to enquire for Letters for himſelf; and about the beginning of *July* comes into the ſaid Inn, and meeting Mr. *Atkins*, the Maſter of the ſaid Inn, he the ſaid *Harriſon* asked him for a Can of Beer; whereupon Mr. *Atkins* ordered his man to draw two Cans, drinking one himſelf, and giving the other to *Harriſon*: After which, the ſaid *Harriſon* took Mr. *Atkins* by the hand, and led him out of his own yard into *Holborn*, and by the Rails in the ſtreet the ſaid *Harriſon* adviſed the ſaid *Atkins* to put off his Houſe and diſpoſe of his Goods as ſoon as he could; for within three Weeks or a Month, there would be great and dreadful fires in and about *London*. Mr. *Atkins* asked him, *How he knew ſo?* The ſaid *Harriſon* replied, *If you will not believe me, you may chuſe*: And ſo left him.

On *Monday*, July 25th, Mr. *Atkins* his Wife hearing of the fire at the *George-Inn* in *Southwark*, went to her Mother at the *Talbot-Inn* in *Southwark*; the back-part of which ſaid Inn is adjoyning to the *George-Inn*, and was likewiſe on fire; and being there, ſhe eſpied the aforeſaid *Joſeph Harriſon* in the Yard, and remembring the aforeſaid Advice to her Husband, deſired ſome Perſons that were next her, to lay hold on him; which being done, he was conveighed to a Foot-Company that ſtood in Arms near the ſaid Inn, judging that the neareſt place to ſecure him. After which, Sir *John Smith*, one of the Sheriffs of *London*, was acquainted with the whole matter. Upon which he, with the Lord *Craven*, went to the ſaid Company, and in the hearing of ſeveral, gave charge to the Captain of the ſaid Company to keep him ſafe until they had time to examine him. After the Fire was put out, ſome went to enquire after the Priſoner, and the Captain told them, *The Lord* Craven *had diſcharged him*.

The next day being *Tueſday*, a Perſon was informed that the ſaid *Harriſon* taught School in *Threadneedle-ſtreet*, and that he boaſted of his deliverance, and ſaid, That the Lord *Craven* was pleaſed to ho-

nour him ſo far as to take him in his Barge with him to *Whitehall*, and bad him but be patient a while, and he ſhould have Satisfaction from the Perſons that had troubled him. But hearing where to find him, endeavours were uſed to re-take him, and accordingly was accompliſhed on *Wedneſday* 27th of *July*, and had before the Worſhipful Sir *John Fredrick*, who ſent him to *Biſhopſgate*, and ordered him to be brought before the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen the next day to be examined. Before whom were theſe following things proved againſt him upon Oath.

1. *THat he hath had frequent Correſpondency with Jeſuites and Papiſts.*

2. *That he hath ſpoken to ſeveral of his Acquaintance to go with him to Popiſh Meetings, declaring that he knew of many.*

3. *That he hath been perſwaded to turn Mendican Fryar, and hath been offered a ſtipend to turn to the Romiſh Religion.*

4. *That he knew there would be divers great and dreadful Fires in and about* London *within a month.*

5. *That he adviſed Friends to rid their hands of all their Concerns in and about* London, *for there would be a great conſumption of houſes there.*

6. *That when he was in the Cuſtody of the Foot Company aforeſaid, Mr.* Atkins *aforeſaid affirming to ſwear the former Article; he threatned him if he did, it ſhould coſt him the beſt houſe he had.*

7. *That he ſaid there were forty thouſand* French Papiſts *lately come over to his knowledge, beſides many that were amongſt us already.*

8. The Lord Mayor asking him, *Who perſwaded him to turn Catholick?* He anſwered, *The King's Under-Barber*, Phillips.

After which he told the Court, That when he was firſt apprehended for theſe things, my Lord *Craven* diſcharged him, and took him with him in his Barge to *Whitehall*. He further told the Court, That he was ſometime an Aſſiſtant to Mr. *Lovejoy* School-maſter at *Canterbury*, and that he had Letters Teſtimonial of his good behaviour from the Dean of *Canterbury*: Upon which my Lord Mayor remembred that he had ſeen him with Mr. *Lovejoy*, and ſaid, that Mr. *Lovejoy* told him, *That he was an idle Rogue*, And ſo he was committed to *Newgate*.

On *Satterday* the 30th of July, it was further depoſed upon Oath by *Thomas Roe*, before Sir *John Fredrick*, as follows.

The

The Information of Thomas Roe *of* Bernards-Inn, *Gent. taken the* 30*th of* July 1670. *by Sir* John Fredrick, *Alderman, one of His Majesties Justices of Peace in the City of* London, *upon Oath, as followeth.*

THomas Roe saith, that he hath for at least twelve or thirteen years last past been acquainted with one *Joseph Harrison*, who was Examined lately at the Guild-hall *London*, before the Honourable the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, upon suspicion of his being a Conspirator in the fireing the City and Suburbs in several parts thereof.

Thomas Roe, and *Joseph Harrison*, having been School-fellows at *Eaton-Colledge*, and being thereby acquainted; *Joseph Harrison* hath several times lately been with him, and advised him to with-draw his Concerns, and remove above twenty miles out of the City; for that the City, and twenty miles round, would be suddenly destroyed and laid waste (or to that purpose): Whereupon *Thomas Roe* asked him, Whether he were privy to any such Conspiracy, or concern'd in its Agitation? pressing him with divers Arguments to discover what he was acquainted with of that kind. *Harrison* replied, That he had no personal and positive knowledge thereof. *Thomas Roe* demanded upon what ground then he did thus advise him? *Jos. Harrison* replied, That he was sometimes conversant among some *Papists*, and perceived a Plot or Design was carrying on by them against the City of *London* and the *Protestant Religion*; which Plot or Design (said he) the *Papists* call, *The Game of Trap*, or, do you understand *Trap ad Crucem*, which is the watch-word amongst them. Further, *Jos. Harrison* said, That he was informed of those things by some *German Protestants*, and that he had offers of fifty pounds *per annum* made him by some *Jesuites* and *Papists* to turn to their Religion; but he had refused it, and would not embrace the Romish Religion.

Thomas Roe further saith, That about five weeks since, he walked through *New-Cheapside*, and from thence into *Mark-lane*, with *Joseph Harrison*, in company with Mr. *Moseley* (a Gentleman belonging to *Barnards-Inn* likewise) and one of his acquaintance, together with another man, a stranger to *Thomas Roe*. Upon their first associating, *Harrison* said unto him, That he would not discover himself to be an *Englishman*, but pretend himself to be a *Germain*, or *Italian* (whether of the two he doth not well remember) and that he might not detect himself,

himſelf, ſpake in the company as occaſion offer'd in *Latine*. But leaving the place where they tarried in *Mark-lane*, going towards *Biſhopſgate-ſtreet*, Mr. *Harriſon* told Mr. *Roe* ſecretly, That he believed that Mr. *Moſeley* nnderſtood the Game of *Trapp* by ſome ſigns he had obſerved from him, and that he would try him. Then going altogether into a houſe, about the end of *Threadneedle-ſtreet*, Mr. *Harriſon* (having by this time diſcovered himſelf to be an *Engliſhman*) ſaid *Trapp*, and made a croſs over his face with his finger, directing himſelf to Mr. *Moſeley*: whereupon Mr. *Moſeley* did alſo ſay *Trapp*, croſſing his forehead and face two or three times, and with a quick motion drew his finger over his own throat. Upon which, Mr. *Roe* asked Mr. *Moſeley* what was the meaning of *Trapp*? but he refuſed to tell. Mr. *Roe* urging him again, He replied, He would not; ſaying, You are not of my Religion. Then Mr. *Moſeley* asked Mr. *Harriſon* what his Name was? (for he knew him not by name) He anſwered, *Harriſon*. Mr. *Moſeley* replied, I never ſaw your name. Mr. *Harriſon* made anſwer, It is *Don Olanſo del Harriſonio*; if ſo, ſaith Mr. *Moſeley*, I have ſeen your name.

After this, Mr. *Moſeley* and the other ſtranger being parted, and Mr. *Roe* and Mr. *Harriſon* being alone: ſaid *Harriſon*, I told you Mr. *Moſeley* did underſtand *Trapp*; you may ſee there is a Liſt of the *Trap-gamſters*. Now whether Mr. *Moſeley*'s imitation of Mr. *Harriſon* was feigned or real, Mr. *Roe* could not diſtinguiſh: but as they two were paſſing through *Cheapſide* homewards, Mr. *Harriſon* looking upon the New Buildings, ſaid, To what purpoſe do they build this poor City, it will be again deſtroyed; at the ſame time he pointed at two ſeveral perſons, ſaying, That is a *Trapp-gameſter*, and there goes another *Trapp-gamſter*.

Mr. *Roe* further informs, That ſince the laſt Term, Mr. *Harriſon* told him, he would write all the Rogueries of the *Trapp game* and *Gameſters* in a *Play*; and that he would undertake to ſhew him twenty ſix *Papiſts* Meetings in and about the City and Suburbs of *London*; but (ſaid he) ſome of them are very private, and if you be diſcovered not to be a Papiſt, you will (peradventure) be poyſoned or ſtab'd.

Mr. *Roe* doth further ſay, That when the ſaid *Harriſon* adviſed him to Remove with all his Concerns above twenty miles from *London*, that the ſaid *Roe* asked him if *Winſor* were not far enough, it being both their Native place, and about that diſtance? The ſaid *Harriſon* anſwered, Not; reflecting upon the Caſtle. And further, *Harriſon* told Mr. *Roe*, That the Jeſuites could by a Compoſition of Ingredi-

ents,

ents, make such a Matter, the fume of which would corrupt any mans Intellects; and that he the said *Harrison* could do it.

On Tuesday, Aug. 2d. *the aforesaid* Harrison *was again Examined in* Newgate, *by Sir* Richard Ford, *upon every Paragraph of Mr* Roe's *Deposition, as follows.*

1. BEing asked the truth of that part of the Deposition, wherein is mentioned the Acquaintance and Conversation of *Roe* and himself? *He acknowledged that to be true.*

2. Being asked concerning the second Paragraph, which relates to his giving Mr. *Roe* advice to Remove himself and his Concerns twenty miles from *London. That he utterly denies that ever he gave any such advice.*

3. Being examined concerning the third Paragraph, *viz.* Thereupon this Deponent asked the said *Harrison*, Whether he knew of his own knowledge that there were any such Conspiracy or Design in agitation? The said *Harrison* answered, *That Mr.* Roe *did ask him this question, or such like.* Whereupon Sir *Richard Ford* told him, That his Acknowledging of this Question made by Mr. *Roe*, was a plain confession of the Advice before given for the said *Roe* to retire himself and concerns, &c. Whereupon the said *Harrison* did say, *I do not remember any such Question.*

4. Upon Examination he confessed that he did say, *There was a Design carrying on by the Papists; but what this Design was, he knew not.* He likewise confessed, *That he did carry Mr.* Roe *to two Popish meetings.*

5. Being examined upon this, Which Plot or Design they call the *Game of Trap, &c.* This he acknowledged, and *that the word* [Trap] *is a word of distinction to know the* Jesuitical Party.

6. Being asked, Whether he said he had offers of fifty pounds *per annum* to turn Papist? *He denied it.*

7. Being asked, Who induced him to go to Popish meetings? He answered, *One* Phillips, *the Kings Under-Barber.*

8. Being questioned about this part of the Paragraph, *viz.* And further this Deponent maketh Oath, That about a month or five weeks since, this deponent met with the said *Harrison* in *new Cheapside Moorfields*, this deponent being then going into *Mark-lane*, met with one Mr. *Moseley*, who is of *Bernards-Inn* aforesaid, and an acquaintance of this deponents, and with him another man, a stranger to this deponent. *The said* Harrison *did confess that he remembred all this, and that it was true.*

9. Being

9. Being further queſtioned, Whether the ſaid *Harriſon* did not pretend himſelf not to be an *Engliſh-man*, &c. *The ſaid* Harriſon *acknowledged it to be true.*

10. The ſaid *Harriſon* being further asked, Whether he told the ſaid Mr. *Roe* ſecretly, That *Moſeley* underſtood the *Game of Trap*, &c? He acknowledged *that he did tell him ſo.*

11. Being further asked, Whether he did not ſay Trap, making croſſes over his face with his finger, directing himſelf to *Moſeley*? He anſwered, *He believed he did.*

12. Being queſtioned, Whether *Moſely* did alſo ſay Trap, and alſo croſſed his forehead and face with his finger two or three times, and with a quick motion drew his finger over his own throat? *The ſaid* Harriſon *did acknowledge all this to be true.*

13. Being asked, Whether he remembred that Mr. *Roe* asked Mr. *Moſely* what was the meaning of Trap, &c. *He anſwered, I do remember it.*

14. Being asked, Whether Mr. *Moſely* asked him his name, &c? *He anſwered, Yes.*

15. Being asked, If Mr. *Moſeley* ſaid he never ſaw his name? *He anſwered,* Moſeley *did ſay ſo.* Being further asked, If he did not tell *Moſeley* his name was *Don alonſo Harriſonio*? To which he anſwered, *That he told Mr.* Moſely, *that his name was* Don alonſo del Harriſonio.

16. Being yet further asked, Whether the ſaid *Moſely* then anſwered that he had ſeen his name? *To which he anſwered, for ought he know* Moſely *did ſay ſo.*

17. Being asked, Whether he ſaid to Mr. *Roe*, You may ſee there is a Liſt of the Trap-Gameſters? *This he owned.*

18. Being further asked, Whether or no as he was going thorow *Cheapſide*, he ſaid to *Roe*, To what purpoſe do they build, &c? *He denied it.*

19. Being asked, Whether or no he pointed to two Perſons, ſaying, That is a Trap-Gameſter; There goeth another Trap-Gameſter? *He denied it.*

20. Being asked, What is the meaning of this Game of Trap, and what was the Liſt of the Gameſters? He made no anſwer at firſt; but being preſt for an anſwer, after a little paws, *He ſaid it was a fiction of his own brain.* Being yet further preſſed to an ingenuous confeſſion of the myſtery of the Game of Trap; after ſome confuſed ſpeeches, *He ſaid, thoſe of the Church of* Rome *would die rather than confeſs.*

21. Being asked, What was the meaning of his frequent converſe with

with Jeſuites and Papiſts? He anſwered, *It was, that he might find out ſuch Perſons that were Partners in the Game of Trap.* And further ſaid, *That in plain Engliſh, the word* Trap *was a word to diſtinguiſh the Jeſuitical or Popiſh Party from others.*

The ſubſtance of the Examination of Robert Redway, *Victualler, at the* Red Lyon *in* Fetter-lane, *taken the* 6th *of* Auguſt, 1670. *by Sir* Thomas Bludworth; *as followeth.*

RObert *Redway* affirmeth, That on *Wedneſday* the third of *Auguſt*, 1670. about ten a clock at night his houſe was fired three ſtories high, as he ſuppoſeth by a perſon or perſons who were ſtrangers, being near about the ſame time in his houſe; but not preſently miſtruſted by him, he keeping a Victualling-houſe (where it is not uſual to take ſuch ſpecial cognizance of Gueſts) The fire was diſcovered by one of his Maid-ſervants, who had occaſion to carry a Child to bed, which ſaid bed ſhe found on fire (and the Chamber ſo full of ſmoak, as put her into a ſudden fright) but it being but newly kindled, through the induſtry of the Family, with the aſſiſtance of Neighbours, it was ſoon extinguiſhed: But the Maſter of the houſe was ſo ſcared by the ſuddenneſs hereof, and the many fearful late occurrences of this kind both in City and Suburbs, that he could take no reſt in his houſe, till he had cauſed narrow inſpection to be made in every corner thereof; cleanſing it from all ſuch matter as might eaſily be fired, locking or bolting the doors of every Room where any bed was, or was not common for entertainment.

Yet notwithſtanding all the care and vigilance was uſed, on *Thurſday* the fourth of *Auguſt* 1670. his houſe was again fired two ſtories high, about twelve of the clock at noon, which was diſcovered by one of his Men-ſervants, who as he was going up one pair of ſtairs to attend ſome Gueſts, heard a very great noiſe, cracking and bouncing like Squibs (made of Gunpowder) but much louder, which cauſed him to run down ſtairs, crying out, *Maſter, Maſter, the houſe is on fire.* Whereupon ſearch was made, and the fire found out two pair of ſtairs in an incloſed bed (commonly called a Preſs-bed) which was broke out into a perfect flame; the Rails thereof, with the deal-boards that incloſed it all round being on fire, and almoſt conſumed with the Bed-cloathes, ſave the upper Rugg. This bed muſt of neceſſity be ſet on fire by ſome fire-ball, or ſuch-like ſtuff, which was conveyed into the bed (or caſt on ſome combuſtable matter about it) at a hole

about an inch and an half wide, which was made in a Deal-board instead of a Staple to receive the shutter or bolt of a Lock.

Had not the fire been seasonably discovered, it would have consumed the whole house, if not endangered many more. But by the aforesaid timely detection thereof, it was suppressed by doing no great hurt, unless to the Goods in the Room adjoyning, and what else was near it.

On *Thursday* at noon, two Persons came thither and dined above stairs, and by their long continuance there, gave some suspicion; but nothing appearing till they were gone, caused less notice: yet in less than a quarter of an hour after broke forth the fire; just upon the discovery of the breaking forth of which, these two men, one in black, the other in grey, well apparelled, having his Hair of a bright brown colour, with a Sash tyed about him, were seen to go forth of the house, and make a stop near by, smiling one upon another, and pointing at the fire, which was observed by a near Neighbour, who was condoling the man whose house was on fire, making some compassionate reflections on the Neighbourhood, who were like to share in the same affliction; At which these two men deridingly said, It was either a casualty, or set on fire by the *Fannaticks*; and so departed.

Now that these two persons, or one of them, were the instruments of this villany, is more than probable by divers circumstances, as well as in the opinion of the man of the house and his neighbours, who took some small observation of them the latter time: For at the same time the fire was the first evening, a Maid-servant of the house had a Trunk in the same Room broken up, but nothing carried away, only her Cloaths which were therein, were much tumbled. And when they departed, they made no tarrying to change their Money (as is usual) but had Money ready for what they had to pay.

And the description of the habit, stature, and complexion which the Neighbours gave of these persons, do exactly agree with the characters *Robert Redway* and his Servants describe them by.

Now that they were not apprehended or pursued at that instance, can be attributed to nothing but the deep surprize the people of the house and the neighbourhood were in; every one striving to make provision to secure his own Concerns.

If any one doubt the truth of this, they may be pleased to repair to the *Red Lyon* in *Fetter-lane* near *Fleetstreet*, where they may receive a full account from the Family of the premises.

The

The Examination of Joseph Speed, *Servant to* Abraham Auer *Upholster in the* Minories, *taken before the Worshipful, Sir* Thomas Bludworth, *July the* 31. 1670.

THat he the said *Joseph Speed* was sent about eight of the clock on the *Satterday* night before with some Chairs and other Goods by order of his Master, to the sign of the King of *Denmark* in *Wappin*, where having delivered the same, upon his return home in *New-Gravel-lane* he is overtaken by two proper men in Gentile habit; the *one* of them in a light coloured Perriwig and a stuff Suit of the new fashion, black and gray mixed, as near as could be ghessed so late in the evening, by help of a Link that a person passed by withal; he had a Rapier by his side: the *other* in a cloth Coat, but with his own hair, and a stick in his hand: He who was the best habited in the Perriwig, claps him on the shoulder, saying, *Well met Brother*, or words to that effect; demanding of him which way he was going? to whom the said *Joseph Speed* replied, That he was intended for *London*; He returned, That thither they were going also, and they should be glad of his company. To which the said *Joseph Speed* only said, *I thank you Sir*. Passing along, the same person in the Perriwig engages in a discourse of the sadness of the times, deadness of trade, and scarcity of Monies, and he thought it might be occasioned by the late rumors and reports of fires, which was the subject he managed as they passed through the Lane. To the whole discourse the said *Joseph Speed* replied by way of Concession, that truly things were so as he had reported, Monies scarce and difficultly gotten: coming to the end of the Lane, they still keeping him company; the said *Joseph Speed* observing them to swear frequently, was desirous to leave them; and that he might do so, resolves to call of an acquaintance of one of his Neighbours in the *Minories*, who lived near that place: turning away on his right-hand, they still follow him, keep pace with him the same way he went, which altered his resolutions, having a distrust that they intended him some injury; upon which he went down the steps by the *Sun Tavern*, and comes into a field commonly known by the name of *King Davids Fort*, some distance from any house: these two fellows had continued discoursing with him, not imagining his design to shun them, as appeared afterwards by their attempt upon him in this obscure place, secure from company and observance: Being past nine at night, he in the Wigg begins to declare himself more fully,

 telling

telling him, **There was a new** and cunning trade come up lately of getting **Money with** a great deal of eaſe. Upon theſe words the ſaid *Joſeph Speed* ſuſpects them, and ſounds the depth of their thoughts, ſeems inquiſitive to know that new way of getting Money; adding, that he ſhould be glad to be put into a way of getting Money ſo eaſily as they mentioned, or words to that effect. Then ſaith the perſon in the Wigg, *It is done by making of Fire-balls, and firing of them:* This confirms his opinion of their treacherous intentions, which that he might the better diſcover, he pretended to comply with them, diſcourſing after that manner as might give them reaſon to ſuppoſe him fit for the purpoſe. After ſome few words paſſed, he in the Wigg tells him he ſhall be employed: The ſaid *Joſeph Speed* deſires to know how, when, and in what manner, or in words to that effect. The ſame perſon then takes two fire-balls out of his pocket, ſhews them to him, tells him he ſhall have twenty ſhillings to take thoſe balls and fire them in ſuch places as they ſhould direct; the which he expreſſed as follows, *viz.* The great Ship that was building in a yard, being wholly or near finiſhed, and newly tarred on the outſide (which Ship was ſince underſtood to be Captain *Taylors*, though the Owner was not mentioned by them, and whoſe Bolt-ſpit lay croſs the ſtreet at *Wapping*) if it might not be done conveniently there, then to do it at the houſe adjoyning to the yard; or if too ſevere a guard were kept thereabouts, then at a Tar-ſhop near the *Armitage-bridge*, or elſe at the *Talbot*-Inn in *Southwark*, where he ſaid he might come eaſily to the houſe, the back-way, there being little or no guard; but he principally urged the fireing of the *Ship*; for the time when it ſhould be done, they bid him obſerve the Tide, and when it was within an hour of low water, then to fire them. He gives him alſo directions how to fire the balls, in manner following; if he could by any means get into the *Ship* or *Houſe*, &c. then to wrap it up in half a pound of Pitch, with ſome quantity of Tow, and ſet fire to it; but if that might not be done with ſafety and ſecrecy, then to obſerve a hole or narrow paſſage which was in the middle or center of the ball, into which he ſhould put ſome powder duſt, and ſetting fire to it, throw it into the place intended. After theſe Directions, the ſame fellow that had hitherto diſcourſed with him, gives him one of the fire-balls into his hand; the ſaid *Joſ. Speed* is now urgent for his Money, but is denied till the *Houſes* or *Ship* was on fire; they telling him, that they would be thereabouts; and when they had obſerved his work to be done, would go to the *Bull-head Tavern* in *Grace-Church-ſtreet*, where they

they would meet with him, and give him his reward. In discourse thus about the Monies, the said *Joseph Speed* tells them that twenty shillings was too small a matter, they might very well give him four or five pounds, because he ventured his life, being sure enough of hanging if discovered; to which was returned by them, That they would procure him a Pardon. The said *Joseph Speed* asking them, Who should give it him, the People or the Pope? They made him no direct answer, but as before, assured him of an Absolution. Immediately upon this talk, the said *J. Speed* willing to apprehend them, if possible, and knowing no likelier way than by asking them to go and drink; tells them he was very dry, and desires them they would give him some drink; to which they would by no means assent. The said *J. Speed* tryes them another way, by urging that he would go to some Alehouse near hand, where he might know where to find them after he had fired the *Ship* or *Houses*, &c. but could not perswade them to neither. This importunity to get them housed somewhere, begets a suspicion that he was not for their turn. Whereupon he with the Stick, sayes, Hang him Dog, or, Hang him Rogue, he will not do the work; or words to that effect. They draw back from him, upon observing whereof, the said *J. Speed*, to manifest his detesting of them and their design, throws stones at them, telling them that their design was frustrated, for that time. He with the Stick comes to him, and strikes him over the shoulders, endeavouring to hold him, calling his companion to assist him; but the said *J. Speed*, by violence, getting from him, the other in the mean time advancing to him with his Rapier drawn; whereupon the said *J. Speed* ran away; they did not pursue him, but fled themselves, running cross the fields as fast as possibly they might; which the said *J. Speed* turning back could observe. They being thus fled, he the said *J. Speed* at once apprehending the hazard of concealment, and the danger those places might be in that they directed him to fire; repairs to Captain *Taylors* house, as also to the Tar-shop by *Armitage-bridge*, acquainting them with the affair, as also several People in *Wapping* as he went along, particularly, two Constables and their Watch. Thence he goes home to his Master, and presently informs him of it; who goes to the next Constable, they to the Common Council-man of their Liberty, or Precinct, and they together to the Watch-house at *Algate*, where part of the Fire-ball was tryed for an experiment, which burned to their general wonder and amazement. That same night was he to appear before the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor at his house,

but

but his Lordſhip being in bed, it was deferred the Examining till the next morning, where by reaſon of his Lordſhips indiſpoſition, he was carried before the Worſhipful Sir *Thomas Bludworth*, before whom the Examination was taken.

This Deponant ſaith further upon Oath, That theſe Perſons told him, when the fire came to the center of the Ball, it would flame two yards, or two yards and an half high.

A faithful Account of the apprehending of a Scotchman, *ſometime ſince, by* William Colburne *at the* Croſs-Keyes *in* Fleetſtreet, *as followeth.*

A *Scotchman* pretending great reſpect he had for *William Colburne* aforeſaid, came to him, and adviſed him, That by all means he ſhould remove his Goods out of *London* and diſpoſe of his Houſe. *William Colburne* asked him for what reaſon? The *Scotchman* replied, Becauſe that he, with many others, were employed to ſet the remainder of *London* on fire; and that they would ſet it on fire at ſeveral places at one time; and *Chancery-lane-end* (which is near the foreſaid *William Colburn*'s houſe) they intended to ſet firſt on fire. Upon which *William Colburne* apprehended him, and being brought to his tryal, he was ſentenced to ſtand in the Pillory, and did accordingly three times; once at the end of *Chancery-lane*, & twice in or about the *Old Exchange*. Much more might be ſaid, but that our aim is to be as brief as is conſiſtent with the truth of the matter of fact in our Narrative. Therefore we refer any that deſire further ſatisfaction, in every particular, to *William Colburne* aforeſaid, who will fully inform them.

The Information of Thomas Godfrey, *taken before* John Smith *Eſquire, one of His Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace for the County of* Middleſex, *upon Oath, the* 27th *day of* July, 1670.

THis Informant ſaith, That upon *Sunday* the 24th day of this inſtant *July*, at his houſe in the Fields, near the upper Conduit, in the Pariſh of St. *Leonard Shoreditch*, one *Robert Ciprey*, about Nine of the clock in the evening, did ſay, That he knew where there was Fire-balls enough in *Wapping*, and that he would not diſcloſe them, but would be hanged or put to death rather than he would reveal them; and that he had ſeven ſhillings ſix pence at one time for removing them, and was bidden by them that ſet him on work, to have

have a care that no Candle came near the ſaid Balls. And he ſaid further, He could help a man to forty pounds that would keep his ſecrets; and that he was bound never to diſcloſe the ſaid Balls: This diſcourſe hapened upon the ſaid *Thomas Godfreys* telling *Robert Ciprey* that he heard of a Woman lately taken at *Ratcliff*, with a Basket of Fire-balls; unto which the ſaid *Robert Ciprey* anſwered, That he knew where were Fire-balls enough at *Wapping*, but that he was under an oath, never to reveal them. And more ſaith not.

Thomas Godfrey
his mark.

The Information of Henry Tompſon, *taken upon Oath before Juſtice* Smith *at the ſame time.*

THis Informant ſaith, That at the time aforeſaid, he heard the aforeſaid *Robert Ciprey* ſay, That he had ſeven ſhillings ſix pence a day for removing of Fire-balls in *Wapping*; and thoſe that employed him gave him a candle, and bad him be ſure to have a care the candle came not near the ſaid fire-balls. And he the ſaid *Robert Ciprey* ſaid, That he was under an Oath never to reveal the ſaid fire-balls, neither would he, though he ſuffer hanging, or any death whatſoever: and that the ſaid fire-balls were of bigneſs ſome ſeven or eight inches about, and ſome leſs. And more ſaith not.

Henry Tompſon
his mark.

The Examination of Robert Ciprey, *taken before Juſtice* Smith *at the ſame time.*

THis Examinant ſaith, That on *Sunday-night* above mentioned, he was in the houſe of *Thomas Godfrey* aboveſaid, where he drank Beer and Ale, and Tobacco, for which he had credit, to the value of ſixteen pence; and that they had at the ſame time ſome diſcourſe concerning Fire-balls. And ſaith, That he wrought one day for a man at *Wapping*, whoſe name he knows not, in removing Shot, Bullets, and Fire-balls; which the man that employed him, bad him have a care his Candle came not near. And that he had no more Wages than twenty pence for his dayes work. And utterly denies

denies to have had ſeven ſhillings ſix pence, or to be under any Oath or Bond, not to diſcloſe the ſaid Balls. And more ſaith not.

Robert Ciprey
his mark.

The Information of Nicholas Porter, *taken before Juſtice* Smith *at the ſame time.*

THis Informant ſaith, That the ſaid *Robert Ciprey*, being apprehended by the aboveſaid *Godfrey*, and ſeized by the ſaid *Nicholas Porter* and *Robert Banks*, did endeavour to make an eſcape by ſtriking up their heels. And more ſaith not.

Nicholas Porter
his mark.

Twenty ſeventh day of July, 1670.

Robert Ciprey ſaith, He lodgeth at *Thomas Godfreys* houſe in the fields, by the upper Conduit, in the Pariſh of St. *Leonards Shoreditch*, Felmonger; and hath been there about a month. And before, at one Captain *Friends* at the *Iron-gate*, about a month. And at one Mr. *Haulſeys*, in *Nitingale-lane*, about twelve months. And before that, at one Mr. *Harris's* at the *three Horſe-ſhooes* in *Nitingale-lane*, about nine weeks. And at his firſt coming to *London*, he was lodged at a Widdow Womans houſe, in *Moorfields*, whoſe name he remembreth not.

He ſaith he came from *Ramus*, within two miles of *Rotheram* in *York-ſhire*, where he lived ſeven years; but was born at *Tickwell* in the ſame County, by Profeſſion a Miller. And the laſt week he worked with one Mr. *John Emblyn* at the Brick-kilns by *Hexton*.

This ſame fellow, to appearance, makes ſhew of being a very ſilly ignorant Perſon, ſeeming not to underſtand any thing; and when Queſtions were asked him, would make as if he knew not what was ſaid to him: Yet no ſooner was he brought to *Newgate*, but was known to be a Notorious Villain, that hath lain there formerly for Felony. And is now there to remain, till delivered by due courſe of Law.

A

A brief Account of the Fire that happened in Budge-Row, *near* Cheapſide, *in the beginning of* July *laſt*, 1670.

ON the eighth of *July*, about midnight, in *Budge row*, in a new houſe (not yet glazed) of one —— *Price* Eſq; a Fire began. The Shop-windows and doors were all made, and cloſe ſhut, and faſtned when the Brick-layers went away, which was between ſix and ſeven a Clock in the evening (the Carpenters not having been at work that afternoon) and the Brick-layers work at that time not being above ſtairs, but only to build up a Wall in the yard. When the Fire was firſt diſcovered, it appeared in a Room over the Front of the Shop, right againſt the Chimney, where lay ſeveral Deal-boards, and Laths reared againſt the Wall, which was there in order to floor part of the ſaid houſe then unfiniſhed. Some of the next Neighbours, who heard the firſt allarum of the Fire, do affirm, That if they could preſently have got to it, might eaſily have quenched it, it was ſo ſmall in appearance; or, for want of Water, caſt it out of the Window: Yet before they could get the Doors open, it was grown ſo furious, there was no going up ſtairs to ſuppreſs it; and in a ſhort time it ſo prevailed, as to prejudice four houſes; ſome of them are conſiderably endamaged. But how, or by what means it was fired, is not certainly known: Yet near *Iſlington*, the ſame evening before it began, ſome Perſons that were going thither, met two Men and one Woman coming towards *London*; who asked the ſaid Perſons, *If there were not a Fire in* London, *near Cheapſide?* The truth of this will be atteſted by ſufficient evidence, if need require.

A true and impartial Relation of a late Fire, which happened at the George-Inn *in* Southwark, *on the* 25th *of* July, *about Eight of the Clock in the morning.*

John Whitler, head-Oſtler at the ſaid Inn, atteſteth, That in the ſame morning, before the fire broke forth, between ſix and ſeven of the clock, he was removing ſome Packs of Hopps, which lay in a Shed near to a Flax-ſhop, in which was ſome Tow and other Combuſtible ſtuff, ordinarily uſed to ſtuff Chairs with. And further ſaith, He did not then perceive or ſmell any ſmoke or fire, or had any Candle or fire been in the ſaid Flax-ſhop for many months before, to his, or any of the Families knowledge. As he was removing the

ſaid Packs, there came in four Perſons, Gentlemen-like, to take Coach for *Dover*, or that way; The Coach was ſtanding by the Shed, and they by it, drinking. Immediately upon this, the ſaid Oſtler was called to the *Swan*, croſs the ſtreet, and then he left all in ſafety, to the beſt of his knowledge. In a ſhort time, returning, met the ſaid Coach driving out with all ſpeed, and found the ſaid Flax-ſhop on fire. *Anthony Blake*, the head-Tapſter, atteſteth, That he alſo waited on thoſe Gentlemen, filling them drink as they pleaſed to call for it; and being ſent for ſix Canns, at his return the Coach was driving away, and the Tow in the place aforeſaid, all on a flame. Mr. *Wayland* (the Maſter of the houſe) and his whole Family, ſolemnly atteſting, They neither knew how it came to kindle there, nor who were the inſtruments, but believe it muſt come through ſome Treachery.

And as a further confirmation of their belief, Miſtris *Atkins*, at the *Greyhound-Inn* in *Holborn* (whoſe Relations at the *Talbot-Inn* in *Southwark*, have deeply ſhared in the Fire) atteſteth, That one *Harriſon*, now in *Newgate*, told her Husband the *Friday* before the ſaid Fire begun, That there would be a Fire at the *Talbot* and *George-Inns* in *Southwark* in a very ſhort time; and he ſhould hear, or ſee, they would be both burnt flat to the ground. This Fire began ſometime after the Chimes went Eight in the morning, and did burn at the *George*, about an hundred and forty Loads of Hay, and three parts of the ſaid Inn. At the *White-Hart*, there is burnt and blown-up, one Stable, one Dwelling-houſe, and four or five Lodging Chambers. At the *Three Cranes*, near adjoyning to the ſaid *George-Inn*, on the North-ſide, are three Dwelling-houſes, and a Still-houſe. At the *Talbot*, are three Dwelling-houſes, and a Waſh-houſe. But that which is moſt dreadful, is, there were ſix or ſeven Perſons wounded, and two kill'd out-right.

A brief Account of a late Fire, providentially prevented, in Goat-Yard, *near Margarets-Hill*, in Southwark.

THurſday, *Auguſt* 11. 1670. about ten of the clock at night, a Woman ſitting at her Door, in *Goat-yard* aforeſaid, heard a great noiſe like hiſſing; and turning to ſee what might be the cauſe thereof, ſhe ſaw a light upon a Shed, or Hovel, in a Wheel-wrights Yard, bounding upon the ſaid *Goat-yard*: On which Shed, or Hovel, were old Wheels, and ſuch-like Combuſtible ſtuff; Whereupon ſhe cryed

eryed out, *Fire*; which cauſed ſeveral neighbours to come forth, who with ſpeedy application of Water, quenched the ſaid Fire: which being done, they diligently ſearched the place, where amongſt the old Wheels they found a Canvas-bag, in which was ſome Sulphurous matter, compounded with other Ingredients, and about half a yard of Match tyed to it; one end of which ſaid Match had been fired; and on ſtrict obſervation, ſeveral ſpoaks have the marks of fire, and ſcent of gunpowder and ſulphur remaining upon them. This villanous deſign was miſchievouſly placed, for the accompliſhing ſome great deſolation: For, near adjoyning to the ſaid Shed, was a Loft full of Hay, the Boards of it old and dry; and behind the ſaid Shed, was alſo a great quantity of Billets: And adjoyning to the ſaid Hay-Loft, was a Timber-Yard, wherein was about an hundred Load of Boards and Timber. A Juſtice of Peace, inhabiting near the ſaid place, had the Match and Combuſtible matter aforeſaid delivered to him. But as yet the Perſon or Perſons who made this wicked attempt, are not diſcovered. If any doubt the truth of this Relation, they may repair to the aforeſaid place, where they will have the truth hereof ſufficiently atteſted.

The Information of William Trigg, *taken before Sir* William Turner *Knight, one of His Majeſties Juſtices of Peace for the City of* London, *the* 13th *of* Auguſt, 1670. *as followeth.*

THis Informant ſaith, That he liveth in *Angel-alley* in *Alderſgate-ſtreet*; and ſaith, That he hath no Family but himſelf, and two young Men, and his Maid at home at this time (his Wife being at or neat *Hamſtead*, with his young Child.) He further ſaith, His young men lye at his Shop, which is about half a furlong diſtant from his houſe; and that his Maid, yeſterday, was abſent two or thre hours without leave, to his diſlike; ſo that (when bed-time came) he ſent his young men into every Room, and particularly the ſaid Maids Chamber, both to fetch her Candle down, and alſo to ſearch over and under beds if all were ſafe from fire, for fear ſhe ſhould do any harm, ſhe having called him to riſe out of his bed but the night before, ſaying, Either there were Theeves, or the houſe was on fire. And this Informant further ſaith, That this morning, between ſix and ſeven of the Clock, when he went out to his Shop, he did not perceive or ſmel any fire; and that about eight or nine of the Clock his Neighbours came to call him, ſaying, *His houſe was on fire.* So he

went home, and up ſtairs to his Maids Chamber, and found it all on fire; two Beds, Curtains and Vallence, and ſome of the Chamber-floor, under the Bed, burnt. And this Informant ſaith, That when he left his houſe in the morning, he left no perſon in the houſe ſave the Maid and his Brother *John Shears*, who lodged that night with him, but ſtaid no longer after him in the ſaid houſe this morning, than to waſh his hands and face, and ſo departed to his employment. And further this Deponent ſaith not.

The Information of John Shears, *taken at the ſame time alſo.*

THis Informant ſaith, That Mr. *Trigg* and he lay together this laſt night; and that this morning, between ſix and ſeven a Clock, he went out of his Brothers houſe to his employment, and did not then perceive any fire, or ſmoke, or ſmell of any fire; and that he left the Maid only in the houſe. And further this Informant ſaith not.

The Information of Joſeph Aſhbey, *taken the ſame time.*

THis Informant ſaith, That he is by trade a Clock-maker, living in *Horn-Alley* in *Alderſgate-ſtreet*, right over againſt Mr. *Triggs* houſe, with one Mr. *Matthew Crockford*, to whom he is Servant. And further ſaith, That his Maſter was this morning ſetting a Clock together, at a Window over againſt Mr. *Triggs* Window, where he did perceive much ſmoke to come out at a Window, and from under the Eves of the ſaid *Triggs* houſe; asking his Servant the meaning of ſo unuſual a ſight, as being ſomewhat fearful of Fire; his ſaid Servant (hoping the beſt) replies, It was poſſible the ſaid Room was Airing againſt Miſtris *Trigg* ſhould come home. And further this Informant ſaith, That at the time of this ſaid ſmoke, he did ſee the Maid-ſervant go up the ſtairs and come down again, but to his knowledge never heard her cry out *Fire*, till Mr. *Sherley*, a Neighbour, went into Mr. *Trigs* houſe, up to the Maids Room where the ſaid Fire was. He further ſaith, That at that time he ſaw the Window-Curtains cloſe ſhut, and that about ſix of the Clock this ſame morning, his Maſter ſaw the Window-Curtains open, being at work over againſt it. And further this Informant ſaith not

The

The Information of William Sherley, *taken then alſo.*

THis Informant ſaith, That being told by ſome of Miſtris *Houſes* folk, That Mr. *Triggs* houſe was on Fire; thereupon, this Informant went thither; and going up ſtairs, met the ſaid Maid within five or ſix ſteps of the Room where the Fire was; who ſaid to him, *She was undone, her Maſters houſe was on Fire.* Then he ſtepping back again ſome ſteps, cryed out for Water; ſo Help came immediately, who beheld the Room all in a flame: but through the early diſcovery, and plentiful application of Water, it went not further than fiering two Beds which lay on one Bedſtead, and Curtains and Vallence, and whatſoever belonged to them, not ſparing the Bedſtead, and part of the ſame Chamber-Floor under the Bed. And further this Informant ſaith not.

The Examination of Mary Torberfield, *who is the Perſon ſuſpected to have ſet the houſe on Fire.*

THis Examinant ſaith, She is Servant to Mr. *Trigg*, and hath lived with him ever ſince the laſt Quarter-day; and that on *Thurſday*-night laſt, about twelve or one of the Clock, ſhe aroſe out of her bed, and called to her Maſter (being in a great fright) but he not anſwering, ſhe called to Mr. *Shears*, who that night lay with him: Then her Maſter waking, anſwered: then ſaid ſhe, Maſter, Have you ever a Candle? who anſwered, No. Then ſhe told him, ſhe thought there was a light in the houſe went up and down ſtairs to her thinking, or that Theeves were in the houſe. Then her Maſter bad her go fetch a Match to light a Candle; but ſhe ſaid ſhe was afraid, and could not go. So Mr. *Shears*, that lodged with her Maſter, aroſe, and went down with her; ſhe fetched the Basket where the Matches lay, and brought them up to her Maſter, who then ſtruck fire, and lighted a Candle; ſo ſhe (with Mr. *Shears*) went into the Kitching, and finding all ſafe, returned to bed again. And further, this Examinant ſaith, That about ten a Clock laſt night ſhe went to bed, and put out her Candle; and that one *Joſeph Shears* being ſent by her Maſter into her Chamber to fetch the Candle, had it away; and that this morning, about ſix a clock, ſhe aroſe, and then ſhe neither diſcovered fire, nor ſmell, nor ſmoke of fire. And this Examinant further ſaith, That ſhe went into the Kitthin, and there dreſſed her ſelf, and went

no

no more up into the Room till a Neigbour came and knocked at the Door, saying, *Was there any Fire in the house?* She answered, *No: Then* (said he) *there is fire somewhere*, and desired her to go and see; so she went up one, and two pair of stairs, and found none; and going up to her Room, discerned a great smoke, whereupon this Examinant came down, saying, *She did not know what to do, the house was on Fire.* Then she went up stairs again, not knowing what she did. This Examinant being asked, Whether there were a Tinder-box in the Room? saith Not. Further being asked, Whether there had been any Fire in the Chimney in her time? saith Not. And that when she went to bed last-night, she shut the Window Curtains, and did not open them this morning; and that she did yesterday go out without leave some two hours, staying one hour of the time at an Ale-house in *Fewen-street* with a person she met, who is a Journey-man to a Refiner, living about *Red-cross-street*. And further this Examinant knoweth not.

The Information of Matthew Crockford, *Clock-maker, living in* Horn-Alley *in* Aldersgate-street, *taken as followeth.*

THis Informant saith, That between six and seven of the Clock this morning, or earlier, he being in his Work-Room, which is exactly over against Mr. *Triggs* house, he did discern a great smoke to come out of the Eaves of the house; and thereupon he asked his Man, *Joseph Ashby*, If he did ever see the house to smoke so? Saying further, Surely the house is on Fire. Upon this his Man replies, That he did believe that Mistris *Trigg* was to come home from the Countrey, and that they had made a fire to air the house in order to it. He further saith, There being a double Light to the house, he did observe a Woman to go up stairs, and afterwards did see her go down again without giving any notice of a Fire, though she were within a very few steps of the Room from whence the smoke came. And this Informant further saith, That perceiving the smoke to grow greater and greater, he told his Man, That surely the house was on fire, & that he could not now see thorow it as he did before, the smoke was so much encreased. Then his Man said to him, Sir, Now you may perceive the Window-Curtain is drawn (for 'tis observable by the way, that early in the morning the Curtain was open, although the Servant Maid attests she shut it over-night going to bed, and did not open it the next morning) and thereupon this Informant bad his Man

Man obſerve if he could ſee any body paſs thorow the Alley, to call to them to knock at the door, and ask whether there were any fire in the aforeſaid Mr. *Triggs* houſe. And further this Informant ſaith nor.

It is obſervable, That this Fire, if deſigned, was miſchievouſly intended in a place where no Engine can come, the paſſages thorow the Entries are ſo narrow; and that within five or ſix yards where it begun, there lay two or three thouſand Bavins, belonging to a Baker that lived near that place: But the Providence of God timely prevented, which otherwiſe (doubtleſs) it had ſeized both the Alleys, and then quickly would have reached *Fewen-ſtreet*; ſo that being timely diſcovered, it only burnt one Bedſtead with two Beds lying thereon, with Curtains and Vallence, and part of the Floor. Whereupon the Maid-ſervant (that was only in the houſe at that time) is committed to *Newgate*, there to remain till ſhe be delivered by due courſe of Law.

A ſhort Account of the Fire in the Savoy, *this preſent year* 1670.

ABout the latter end of *June*, in the *Savoy*, near one a clock in the morning, a Fire happned in a back-room that had been a Strong-water Shop, where it was firſt diſcovered; which immediately went on from houſe to houſe, Eaſtward and Weſtward, till there was burnt and blown up fourteen Dwelling-houſes, in four or five hours time. There is no certainty how it firſt began, yet Treachery is believed to be in the bottom; for 'tis credibly reported that Sir *Jeremy Whichcock* upon his examining the premiſes, had two Watermen brought before him, who did affirm they carried two Gentile-like men over-night to *Weſtminſter*, who were ſpeaking of the heat of the evening; and one replied to the other, (in the Watermens hearing) *That it would be a hotter morning at the Savoy.* Timely care, with the help of Engins, and blowing up of three or four houſes Eaſtwards, was a prevention of its going further into the *Strand*; and towards *Worceſter-houſe* Weſtwards there was a great Brick-wall, which gave ſuch a check to it, that it prevented its encreaſe that way alſo; So that by God's good providence, and the induſtry of thoſe that came in to help, the Fire was here ſuppreſt.

This Fire broke forth very ſuddenly, and was very vehement for the time, yet (bleſſed be God) there was not above two perſons kill'd outright, and ſix or ſeven hurt.

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An Impartial Account of the Fire happening near the Royal Exchange, on the 23d *of* July 1670. *at the house of Mr.* Francis Nowers, *Heraild-Painter, as followeth.*

THe Watch belonging to that Ward give in upon Oath to the Coroner and Jury, That the said Mr. *Nowers* was in his own Belcony at twelve a clock at night, and that he talked with them in as sober and compos'd a frame as ever they saw him in their lives. And about one a clock it appears his house was on fire, being first discovered by some passengers going that way, who presently gave notice to the Inhabitants and Neighbourhood. There were in this house the Master and his Brother, a Nurse and two young Children, a Maid-servant and an Apprentice. At the time when this Fire began, the Maid was in the Kitchen under-ground, all the rest of the Family in bed; but the said Maid understood nothing of it, till it was noised in the street, upon which she ran up stairs to her Master's room, which she found all on a light fire. By this time her Master's Brother (who lay a story higher) hearing a sudden skriek, awaked, and in his shirt ran down to his Brother's Chamber, but found the Door on fire, and with the strength of the smoak was forc'd back again, having much ado to save himself: yet remembring the Apprentice that lodged in the same story, forthwith awaked him, and they ran together out at the Gutter-window, and so broke their way into the *Dolphin-Tavern* near adjoyning.

How this Fire happened is very uncertain, though it is suggested it might fall out in the Nurses Room, two pair of stairs, on the same floor with the Masters, where was used to be a Candle burning all night long, she having in her charge a young Child of about thirteen weeks old. But whether it happened so or no, is to us as yet unknown, however the consequence (God knows) is too apparant, and very sad to relate: for it did immediately destroy the Master of the House, and a Child in bed with him; also the Nurse, and a Child with her: yet, through the timely help of Neighbours, it did not much further harm, than destroying the said house, with the upper parts of two houses adjoyning.

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